

THE FLYER



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October 11, 2011

Salisbury University's Student Voice

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Potential university merger raises questions

BY PETE HICKS

Editorial Editor

Salisbury University may soon receive greater competition for state funding in the form of a unification of two Maryland universities.

The Maryland General Assembly has directed the University System of Maryland to conduct a study on the potential merger of the University of Maryland, College Park, and University of Maryland, Baltimore, in order to consolidate the programs of the two state universities.

"It would create more opportunities for students," said Sarah Jansson, SU Student Government Association vice president.

The USM Board of Regents, which is in charge of the study, is researching "the projected costs, both immediate

and long-term, associated with merging UMB and UMCP into a single institution for the USM and its other institutions," according to its official work plan.

UMCP is Maryland's flagship institution of higher education, and it receives state funding. Adding another university onto UMCP could decrease the allotment of state funds that would otherwise go to SU. The study is designed to look into this potential problem and determine whether or not the merger would be financially sound for all of Maryland's universities.

The merger would create an institution of learning known simply as the University of Maryland. The idea was opened for discussion because the two schools have complimentary programs.

UMCP is geared toward undergraduates and has many doctoral and research programs. UMB is mainly professional training and contains seven professional schools that train many of the state's medical staff, social workers and lawyers. The two schools also have very few overlapping programs, according to the study work plan of the potential merger provided by the University System of Maryland.

The topic was presented to SU students at the SU SGA meeting on Sept. 25 by SU's representative for the USM student council, Mike Bengtson.

"They would complement each other well, but they are 42 miles apart," Bengtson said.

The distance could prove to be a problem with connecting the two schools, as students who take classes at both universities during the merger

would have an extensive commute.

"I don't know where the logic is," said SU senior Shaun Powell. "It seems logically impossible."

With the merger having valid positive points and serious issues, students must wait to see the findings of the study being done on the merger to fully understand its potential impact.

The merger is not officially on the table for voting in the state senate. Data is being gathered on the issue and will be presented to the senate by Dec. 15. A decision will be formally debated in 2012.

Students have no actual vote on the matter because decisions about state universities and their funding are decided by elected officials. However, students may answer survey questions on the issue and learn more about the reasons behind the possible merger at

www.USMD.edu or write to their state representatives for information.

The USM student council will meet at SU on May 6 to discuss the matter among university representatives.

The USM Board of Regents has scheduled two public hearings, seen below, as part of its study of the potential merger of UMB and UMCP.

Public hearings:

October 21, 3-5 p.m. at UMB, in the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center Ballroom at 621 Lombard St.

October 28, 1-3 p.m. on at UMCP, in the Prince George's Room on the first floor of the Stamp Student Union.

ABC reveals 'Extreme' renovations

BY KATELYN DRAPER

Staff Writer

In less than a week, Extreme Makeover: Home Edition built a house from the bottom up and finally asked the bus driver to "Move That Bus" for the Johnson-Goslee family last Tuesday night in Mardela Springs.

"They really needed it, and we're so blessed to have had this happen," said Trudy Granby, aunt of the family.

Last Christmas Eve, 15-year-old Wyzhiz Johnson lost his hand while repairing the carpeting in the family's former home. A few months later, Granby's niece, Janelle Depree, sent in an application to Extreme Makeover: Home Edition with Johnson's story in hopes that they might be chosen. Little did Depree know, less than two weeks ago, Ty Pennington, TV host for EMHE, would come knocking on their door and begin their EMHE journey.

"Even though it was freezing and raining Friday night, there were so many people who were willing to help out," said sophomore Becca Wanner. "It was amazing to see how many people were truly dedicated to helping this family."

Volunteers from all around the area, including residents of Salisbury and Mardela Springs, Salisbury University students, faculty, and staff, and organizations, in-

cluding Wraparound Maryland, Inc., a non-profit established to "provide care coordination to youth and their families," came to be a part of the magic happening on Old School Road.

"I can't wait to see the reactions of the family and to be able to follow the children throughout the years to come," said Kim Wolf, community resource specialist for Wraparound Maryland, Inc.

The organization compiled written encouragements from the families in the program and children who came to volunteer and made a scrapbook that was presented to the Johnson-Goslee family at the reveal.

Aside from rebuilding the Johnson-Goslee home, EMHE worked on individual projects for families that live nearby. EMHE staff and volunteers landscaped each house, built a playground for the grandchildren of Wyzhiz's grandfather, Tommy Dennard, dug a garden for the grandmother's home and reroofed part of Zion United Methodist, the family's church building down the road.

"Getting involved with EMHE has inspired me to find time to get involved in the community more so I can help leave a lasting impression when I graduate," said sophomore Marguerite Gilchrist.

Just hours before the reveal, volunteers were scattered all over the site painting forgotten spots, laying



Katelyn Draper photo

ABC staff and community volunteers prepare the house for the reveal on Tuesday.

sod and adding landscape to the new home.

"I loved serving with my friends and doing something together and growing in our friendship by helping others," said sophomore Jennifer Schomburg. "When we put aside our own needs and spend our time serving others, big things can happen."

Big things did happen when the Johnson-Goslee family was presented with their new home. This was also a new start for another student at Mardela High School who is also receiving a bionic hand much like Wyzhiz.

Along with the new home, Wyzhiz and his sister Renee will be receiving a full scholarship to Salisbury University.

"I thought I never would've experienced tough times like this, but hang in there and keep praying," Granby said.



Katelyn Draper photo

Workers cut wood to build the Johnson-Goslee house.

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www.theflyer.com



Low-rated professors reflect on their scores

BY JAMES TOWNSEND

Staff Writer

Students will soon be pouring through course catalogues with advising right around the corner, carefully considering each professor in search of those perfect spring classes. Many will turn to RateMyProfessors.com for guidance.

RateMyProfessors.com is a website devoted to evaluating a professor's helpfulness, clarity, easiness and overall quality, based on students' reviews. The site has been criticized over the years for its rating system that reputably favors easiness over quality, and for being an anonymous venting space for unhappy students.

SU senior CJ Poliseno said he's aware of the fact that most of the reviews are from people who are either very happy or very angry.

"It's not an exact science. I don't read too much into it," Poliseno said. "But so far it's always given me a pretty good indication as to how receptive professor will be."

Poliseno is not alone, either. Many SU students find RateMyProfessors.com to be a valuable tool, even a defining factor when choosing their classes.

Despite its popularity, most professors and faculty find the site easy to dismiss as inaccurate, saying student evaluation forms are a better alternative. However, results from a study

conducted by the University of Maine argue that point.

The study, published in the journal Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation, found that the results of RateMyProfessors.com closely correlated with the results of student evaluation forms filled out at the end of the semester. It states that its findings "should give pause to those who are inclined to dismiss RMP indices as meaningless."

Among those who discredit the site is the sociology department chair Diane Illig, although she admitted she has never visited the site.

"It's a selection bias," Illig said. "It's more often than not disgruntled students who are submitting to the site. Positive experiences are rarely taken into consideration. It's not a balanced view."

Nevertheless, some students find the site to be a semi-accurate way of rating instructors. Because of this, the five lowest-rated professors (with the highest number of ratings) on RateMyProfessors.com were sought after to tell their side of the story.

Professors Samuel Geleta, biology, and Moazzam Mohammed, mathematics, were unable to comment for the story due to time constraints. Shawn McEntee, sociology, the second lowest-rated professor, declined request for an interview.

Kurt Ludwick, mathematics, is the fifth lowest-rated professor. He said

the rating surprised him, though he admits he's not terribly upset about it.

"I think I'm a good teacher, otherwise I wouldn't do it," said Ludwick. "I'm a good teacher to students who want to do well (and are) not for those looking for an easy A. In a way, I'm happy the site keeps away those students."

"I'm a tough grader, and I give tough assignments. I don't put up with students' boloney."

- Robert Berry

History professor Robert Berry, the lowest-rated professor at SU, was not at all surprised by his rating and was happy to give his opinion on the site.

"It's a nice bunch of bullshit for students with no lives to 'get back' at teachers for giving them bad grades," Berry said. "I'm a tough grader, and I give tough assignments. I don't put up with students' boloney."

Berry said he believes he is an 'old-fashioned' professor who doesn't use much in the way of PowerPoint or

videos, calling it "a lazy way of using a blackboard."

"I don't do much in-class discussion either. I don't see the value," Berry said. "If you don't know what you're talking about, why talk? You're taking the class in the first place because you don't know the material."

Not only does Berry not give any weight to his rating on RateMyProfessors.com, he also believes that student evaluations aren't very valuable either. He admits he's often been disappointed with what students produce.

"Many come in completely unprepared for the real world and give no effort. They think 'gee whiz, I'm going to get out and get that \$100,000 a year job,' which they won't. The world doesn't work that way."

In general, the sentiments of most faculty members on the website are mirrored by Berry when he said, "Most students could be capable, if they just decided to do the work. Don't blame the instructor when it's your responsibility to do well."

Senior Devin Anonsen said he is cynical when it comes to the teacher-student relationship.

"Teachers don't care what students think of them, unless it affects their pay," Anonsen said. "If they have tenure, no one cares how students feel, no matter how valid the complaint."

EDITORIAL

Volume 39 Issue 11

Overheard: How have Apple products influenced your life?

Photos by Danielle Duplain



"I guess as far as a sense of amenities, I'd never own anything other than an iPod. Everyone knows what Apple is, it's definitely a crucial part of my life." - Erin Lange, Sophomore



"I have a Mac computer and I'm on it most of the time during the day, so in that sense it's impacted me." - Katie McMichael, Sophomore



"It's made it easier for me to live." - Kevin Newsome, Junior



"I actually don't use many Apple products except my iPod." - Lenee Silver, Senior



"Apple products have impacted me immensely, I use them everyday, I have a Macbook and an iPod." - Monica Era, Sophomore

The Flyer

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The Flyer strives for accuracy and corrects its errors immediately. Corrections will always be printed on this page. If you believe The Flyer has printed a factual error please email us at suflyblog@gmail.com.

Troy Davis: Injustice over innocence



BY AJIA ALLEN
Staff Writer

Troy Davis' recent case spurred reactions from many people, particularly from the African-American community.

The justice system is again being questioned by many concerned individuals. Davis' case was filled with ambiguity and many speculated that it was unfair. Not only is the justice system baring reprimand for its actions, but the fairness of capital punishment has resurfaced as a dominant concern.

Davis was a presumably innocent African-American man put to death by lethal injection on Sept. 21 at Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison located in Jackson, Ga. Davis was indicted for the murder of police officer Mark MacPhail on Nov. 15, 1989 and sentenced to death on Aug. 30, 1991 by a grand jury.

Twenty years of Davis' life were spent on death row and although he claimed noninvolvement in MacPhail's murder, countless appeals sent to the Georgia Supreme Court on Davis' behalf were denied. In December 2001, seven of the prosecution's main eyewitnesses changed their testimonies, stating that they were coerced by the police, who were using threats to gain condemning statements.

Davis gained great support from many, including prominent figures such as Pope Benedict XVI and former President Jimmy Carter.

Even with so much support and consistent problems throughout the case, Davis was still put to death at 42 years old. His last words maintained his innocence.

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Similar notorious cases have been scattered throughout American history and politics. Because of that, feelings of inequality will seemingly forever burden the minorities of the United States.

Even though African-Americans were incensed by this case, Americans of all backgrounds were outraged by the possibility of executing a man that repeatedly claimed innocence, along with a case that increasingly pointed toward injustice. Due to the attention given to this case, many are now concerned about the use of the death penalty in the U.S.

The U.S. was built on a justice system of laws that create a battle between morality and conformity. The new generation has the responsibility of rejecting conformity and overcoming a flawed establishment.

Staying aware of world issues are where future leaders start on the path to activism. The devotion to morality is how this activism comes to be.

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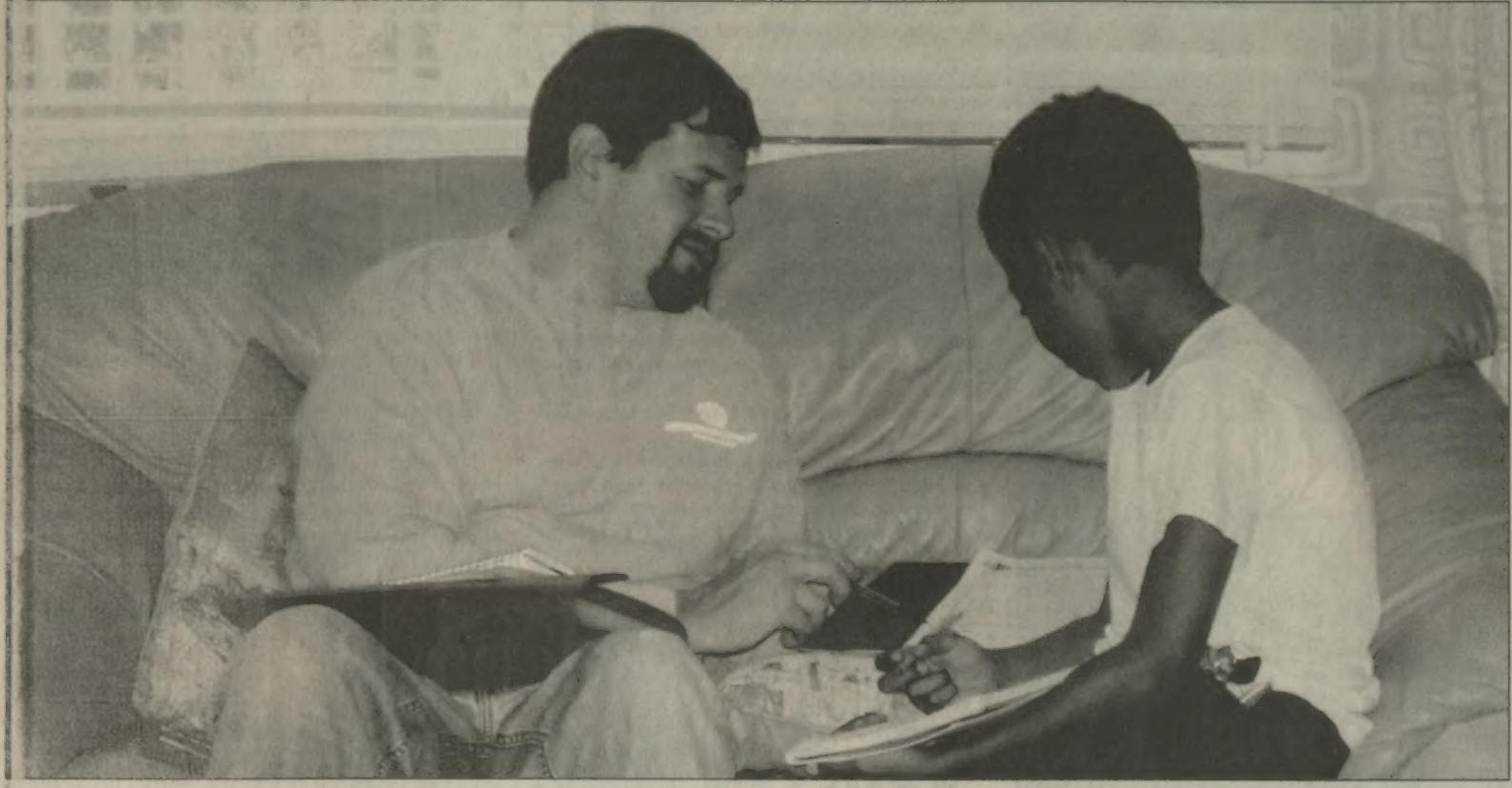
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GULL LIFE

October 11, 2011

Village helps women rebuild



Kristina Jackereas photo

Cathy Seltzer's son, Issaiah, gets help with his math homework from tutor, Chris Johansson, in the transitional housing center, the Village of Hope.

BY KRISTINA JACKEREAS
Staff Writer

Since April 1, 28-year-old Cathy Seltzer has lived in the Village of Hope with her three children, in an effort to rebound after years of poverty and drug abuse.

After beginning her journey of recovery at the Hope and Life Outreach Ministry Homeless Shelter, Seltzer came to the Village to get back on her feet.

"The staff at the Village of Hope is very supportive," Seltzer said. "If you show them that you're willing to help yourself, they'll without a doubt help you."

According to HALO, about 24 percent of single women are living in poverty in Salisbury. About 18 percent of the homeless are children, and about 26 percent of the homeless are suffering from drug or alcohol abuse.

Since its spinoff from the Joseph House, a homeless shelter for men, the Village of Hope has strived to decrease these numbers.

The Village of Hope is a non-profit organization that offers a two-year transitional living program for women who are seeking independence and becoming more self-sufficient and build toward a better future," said Jasmine Rogers, an SU alumna and part-time assistant case manager at the Village.

Rogers is one of many staff members who help each of the women and children within the Village's 14 apartments.

"There are many workshops at the Village for the women and children," Rogers said. "We have parent workshops, which help the women when it comes to raising their children; storytelling workshops, which teach the res-



Kristina Jackereas photo

Cathy Seltzer helps her son, Issaiah, with his math homework. The Village of Hope has a common room where the women can relax and unwind with their children.

However, Rogers noted that the curfews are for the residents' safety. "The rules keep them in order, and curfew exceptions only happen when one of the women have to work late," Rogers said.

"This job is so rewarding," Rogers said. "I love interacting with the women and children. These women have come so far, and I'm honored that I get to help them."

Seltzer is one of the many women at the Village who is struggling to make her life better after living in poverty and a bad relationship. She is in the GED program, learning algebra and writing skills. She cherishes her three boys, Issaiah, 10, Isaac, 6, and Christopher, 5.

"It wasn't easy for us to adjust here," Seltzer said. "It's hard to get used to the rules and curfews."

Health Report
BY SARAH WOODS
Health Columnist

Dancing is an activity often associated with physical fitness. However, it can also benefit mental and social health. One of the many dance groups on campus is Untouchables Dance, Inc., a registered student organization through Multicultural Student Services. UT encourages all styles of dance that its members are interested in such as ballroom, jazz, tap and hip-hop. The group welcomes anyone in the campus community regardless of style, experience or gender. UT brings students from all backgrounds together with their shared love of dance. They practice three times per week and have two main yearly shows, as well as other appearances in the community.

A major benefit of participating in an organization like UT is the social camaraderie that results from spending time with a familiar group of people working toward a common goal.

"At the end of the day, we are all a family in UT." This statement can be found on the organization's website.

In addition to the physical benefits of dancing, research has shown that dance has mental benefits as well. According to a study published by the New England Journal of Medicine in 2003, dancing frequently may decrease an individual's risk of developing dementia by 76 percent. Another study published by the International Journal of Neuroscience in 2005 suggests that dance may help alleviate depression in adolescents by way of stabilizing serotonin and dopamine concentrations in the brain.

According to the National Institute of Health, one in eight children may suffer from a mental illness. In society where depression is a major health concern, especially for the adolescent and young-adult age group, activities such as dancing may have more to offer than once thought.

Another Round with Diana and Justin Best Brews

Sunday from 12:30 to 6 p.m.

BY DIANA DWYER
AND JUSTIN ODENDHAL
News Editor and Photo Editor

movie Fight Club. The six-hour festival was a test of endurance for some and a race against the clock for those who wanted to try as many samples as they could (responsibly) consume.

"Does anybody have a pillow?" asked senior Sam Kempf, who searched for the most generous sample-pourers.

The Maryland Autumn Wine Festival will similarly offer unlimited samples from Maryland wineries on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and

"If I had a nickel for every 2-ounce senior Bryant Howard said.

The challenge of finding a table on featured last night on Wednesday at Specific Craft Beer & Bistro. It is a testament to the popularity of craft beer on Delmarva.

Participants queued at the festival for the plentiful pumpkin brews, as well as a variety of ales and lagers. Senior Cody Robbins said Oskar Blues G'Night was his favorite beer at the festival.

"I came here to support local breweries," senior Scott Wise said.

Twelve bands on two stages entertained the crowds. Chris English, a blues musician and lecturer of the music department, sang and played guitar with his band on Saturday.

"I came for the good times and the great beers," senior Scott Wise said.

Eastern Shore bands were represented by more than the craft beer. Attendees played cornhole and ate traditional Eastern Shore fare such as crab balls and cakes, barbecue pulled pork, kettle corn and fried pickle.

"I love the craft beer. It has flavor unlike Budweiser and Narragansett," said an attendee who identified himself as Tyler Durden, a character from the

Pemberton Park.

Chris English, Salisbury University music and blues professor, plays with his band on Saturday at the Salisbury Goodbeer Festival at Pemberton Park.

Justin Odenthal photo

Oktobefest faces obstacles

German club disappointed by low funding and opposition against T-shirt design.

BY JOHN TULLY
Staff Writer

All the German club president Carolyn Zimmerman wants is this year's 39th annual Oktoberfest, to go off without a hitch.

The event, with its projected attendance of 2,500 people, demands much in the form of food, prizes, T-shirts and security. The German club requested \$3,130 with the expectation that the Appropriations Board would help fund some of the event. The Board allotted \$1,835, leaving the German club to cover the rest of the bill. Compared to the difference of \$129 from last year's request of \$3,334.49, Zimmerman felt she was left high and dry.

"I don't think it's an unreasonable amount considering the size of the event. We're trying to reach out to the community. The city of Salisbury doesn't host an Oktoberfest - Ocean City does, Cambridge does - if we could, we'd like to make that happen," Zimmerman, who feels as if the publicity that these plans could bring to the school more than offsets the cost.

The Appropriations Board did not reply with comment on this incongruity.

Salisbury's Oktoberfest is notorious for being one of the only school-sanctioned opportunities for students to drink on campus, yet Zimmerman continued to encounter restrictions at SU's Press and Publications Department, who refused to allow the Oktoberfest T-shirts to feature the infamous beer Stein on it, despite a similar graphic on last year's advertisements for the "Oktoberfest Dinner" hosted by The Commons.

"I just feel like we're being singled out," said Zimmerman, despite their self-imposed restrictions on serving the notably opposite drink. "It's a key element of Oktoberfest, just as much as traditional German food is."

Zimmerman feels as if in a roundabout way, these types of restrictions impede her club's ability to present the beer in a mature way.

"They were really worried about how it would reflect back on the university, but I think it's unfair to put that kind of weight on a T-shirt," said Zimmerman, who suggested that perhaps responsible, legal drinking is the kind of thing Salisbury University should want people to associate it with.

"My favorite thing here is the other residents," Zimmerman said. "We sit outside and watch our children play, and encourage each other to do the best we can... We are our own support system."

If you go:
What: Oktoberfest
When: Wednesday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Where: Fulton Hall lawn

Eastern Shore breweries: 16 Mile Brewery (Georgetown, Del.), Burley Oak (Berlin, Md.), Dogfish Head Beer (Rehoboth Beach, Del.), Eastern Shore Brewing (St. Michaels), Evolution Brewing Company (Delmar, Del.), Fordham Brewing Company (Dover, Del.) and Old Dominion Brewing Company (Dover, Del.).

Diana's top pick:
Jacques Au Lantern (Evolution Craft Brewing Company)

Justin's top pick:
Dale's Pale Ale (Oskar Blues)



Justin Odenthal photo

October 11, 2011 THE FLYER

GULL LIFE

International students review SU culture

BY LAUREN ANDERSON
Staff Writer

asked what was different, they looked at each other and laughed.

"Almost everything," they said together. Schools in Poland are smaller, technology is not as new and teachers are stricter. The twins were quick to say that the professors in Salisbury are "friendlier and more helpful."

Another huge difference is that there are more clubs and activities in the U.S. In Poland, students go to school and come straight home after an eight-hour workday, even in college.

Dominika and Joachim have learned to make the most of their travels.

"Have as much fun as you can with what you're given," Joachim said.

In

middle

school,

Dominika

and

Joachim

lived

in

Poland

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in

high

school

and

in

the

U.S.

and

now

they're

in

college

and

they're

here

and

Athlete Spotlight



Salisbury University Athletics photo

Caitlin Walker

BY PATRICK DRENGWITZ
Sports Editor

Salisbury University's women's field hockey team is drenched in talent this

year, evident in their 12-0 record. One of those shining stars is senior forward Caitlin Walker. With seven goals so far this season and CAC Offensive Player of the Week honors in September, Walker is a true asset to the team.

When did you start playing field hockey?

"Seventh Grade. I quit soccer on a Saturday and then signed up for field hockey that night and played in a game the next day."

Do you have any pre-game routines or superstitions?

"Our team is real superstitious. Like how we walk out, telling each other exactly where to stand. I always wear my sophomore championship ring before the game and then give it to my roommate before the game starts."

Was the field hockey program one of the main reasons you decided to come to Salisbury?

"Yeah ... But I wanted to come here and win, and I knew I could with the program."

What has been your favorite memory with the team so far?

"Well, obviously winning the national championship

was awesome. Thinking back on last year though, the team was really close. Overall, I feel like this year has been my favorite experience."

You guys have yet to lose a game; where are the areas of improvement for an 11-0 (the team is now 12-0) squad?

"We have generally one really good half, (and in) the other, we don't let up, but we don't make very much progress. Goals come in the first half, but not much in the second. Coach Chamberlin would like us to put together 70 minutes of good hockey instead of just one half."

Has the team played the toughest teams yet or are they still to come?

"The toughest teams will definitely be in playoffs. The highest ranked team we played was Messiah College; that day we were ranked number one and they were number three. We definitely played a few top 20 teams and really took it to them. I wouldn't say we have had it easy so far though."

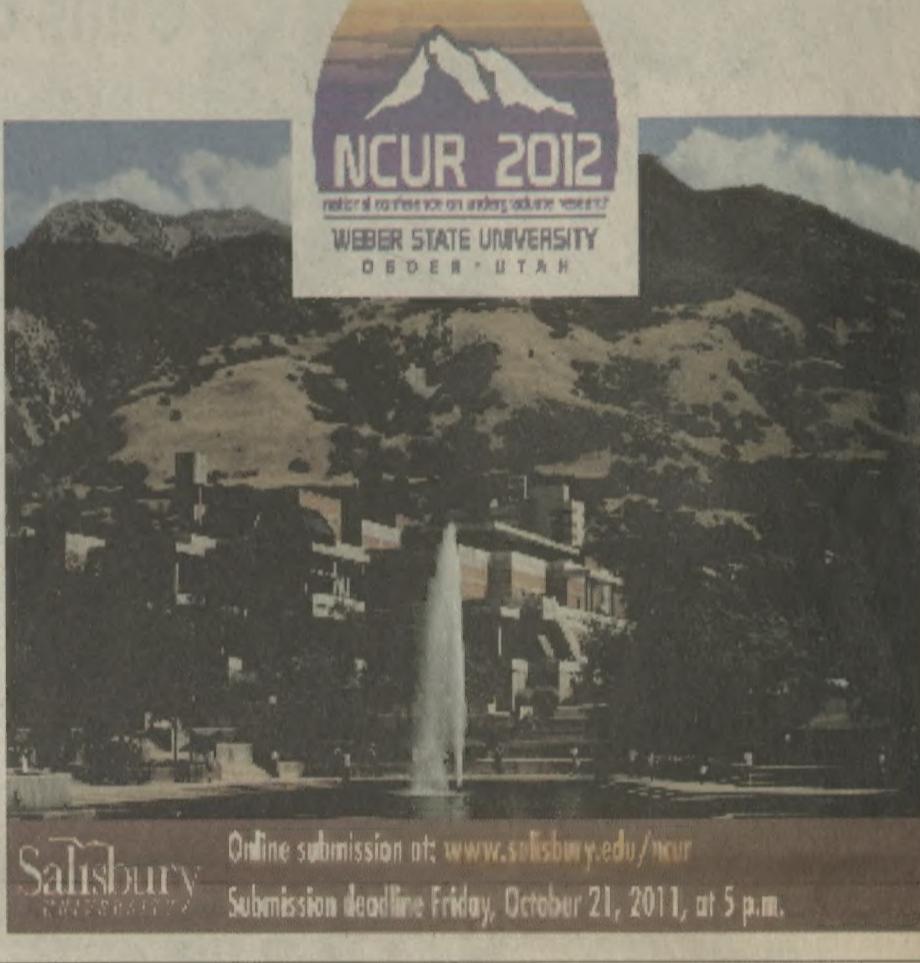
Do you have any interest in this year's NFL season?

"I'm an Eagles fan, but it's hard to find time with my busy schedule."

National Conference on Undergraduate Research

TRAVEL GRANT AWARDS

Apply for a grant to present your research or creative activity at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), to be held March 29-31, 2012, at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.



Online submission at: www.salisbury.edu/ncur
Submission deadline Friday, October 21, 2011, at 5 p.m.

GULLS GOING GREEN

Need a good excuse to hit up Uptown Cheapskate or our local thrift stores? Start buying used clothing. It not only saves you money but it helps the environment as well. Buying secondhand fashions decreases the overexploitation of Earth's resources (cotton for example) to make firsthand clothing. Start chopping at Goodwill and you will make the planet feel good.

Corey Hill, officer of Gulls Going Green Club

Meet us Red Square (Hencon 21 on rainy days) every Wednesday at 6pm

TIP OF THE WEEK



Full-Service Pharmacy



Accepting all insurances, and offering competitive pricing.

And

Gift Boutique, offering brands such as...

Bare Escentuals

Salisbury U. Apparel

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and More



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